

MHawaii MARINE

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THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 16, 2007



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Corps celebrates 232nd birthday

Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Stauffer

Combat Correspondent

What started at Tun Tavern on Nov. 10, 1775, is a day in history that will be remembered in the hearts of every Marine who has ever served and will be remembered for many years to come.

Headquarters Battalion celebrated the 232nd Marine Corps birthday by performing a colorful pageant displaying a short history of the Corps, followed by the traditional birthday speech by Gen. John A. Lejeune and the cutting of the birthday cake at Dewey Square here, Nov. 8.

The pageant was coordinated by Gunnery Sgt. Tracey D. Nicholson, equal opportunities representative, Headquarters Battalion. Nicholson began the preparation for the pageant in September, working with Marines and Sailors who participated.

See PAGEANT, A-7



Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Marines and Sailors assigned to Headquarters Battalion reenact the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima during the Marine Corps birthday pageant Nov. 8.

Spouses celebrate Corps' birthday

**Story and Photo by
Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard**

Combat Correspondent

Lovely ladies looked beautiful in heels, dresses and bouncy curls as they moved about the room.

Still, something was missing from this birthday ball. There was no sea of Marines in dress blues mingling among the ladies.

The spouses of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment attended the first Deployed Spouses Ball at the Officers' Club Saturday. It was a bittersweet evening for the wives, who celebrated their husbands' service as they serve their deployment in the sands of Iraq.

The ladies began the night with cocktails and socializing, meeting the other 3/3 wives, many realizing they're all in similar situations.

"I love and miss my husband so much, and the other wives are going through the same thing," said Lance Cpl. Carmaleta Gladney, aviation supply, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, wife of Lance Cpl. Milton Gladney, Company K, 3/3. "I came to the ball tonight to be there for the

other wives. I hope he knows no matter how long it takes, I'll always be there for him, and that I can't wait for him to get back."

After the ladies settled in their seats, Staff Sgt. Jody Stroud explained the importance of the birthday ball and ceremonies.

"It's an evening of tradition to remember where we came from," Stroud said.

He explained the lone table with one place setting was the "fallen comrades" table, representing the Marines of 3/3 who died in action in the past. He then introduced a video message from Gen. James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As Conway spoke of honor, courage and commitment, the ladies watched with pride and tear-filled eyes.

"It was really neat how they presented the birthday message to all the wives," said Kim Walls. "Tonight is a great opportunity to meet other females and celebrate our husbands service."

This was the first Marine Corps

See SPOUSES, A-7



Major Matthew Tracy affixes the last four dog tags to the guidon at 8 a.m., Nov. 9, for the last shift in the 3rd Marine Regiment 24-hour Memorial Run, which began Nov. 8. The run was held in honor of 3rd Marine Regiment's fallen warriors from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

3rd Regiment remembers fallen with Memorial Run

**Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

Combat Correspondent

With a guidon full of dog tags, Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment ran throughout the night in honor of their fallen brothers.

From 8 a.m., Nov. 8, to 8 a.m., Nov. 9, Marines ran in 20-minute shifts from 3rd Marine Regiment to the Pacific War Memorial and back, each time running in memory of a Marine killed in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"It's important to do this because you'll see memorial services for fallen Marines when a battalion gets back from Iraq," said Cpl. Jacob Kareus, Regimental Schools.

"It's fresh in their minds then. This is months, in some cases years later. Some of these Marines were killed in 2005. It's good to remember our fallen brothers, especially on the Marine Corps birthday."

Marines from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalion, as well as Marines from the Wounded Warriors Company, Regimental Schools and even former Marines, volunteered to take part in the 24-hour run, running individually or in fire teams. Also, Marines could pick which fallen warrior they wanted to run for, making the event more personal and significant for them.

"I think it was a great way to pay tribute to the Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Sgt. Jeff McDonald,

See RUN, A-5

HQBN takes hike for food drive

**Story and Photo by
Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis**

Combat Correspondent

Marines from Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, stepped off on a 4.8-mile hike here, Nov. 8, en route to the base chapel to help assist in the chapel's annual holiday food drive.

The hike also helped celebrate the Marine Corps' 232nd birthday.

Marines carried 20 pounds of non-perishable food items as well as gear.

"I enjoyed the hike," said Lance

See HIKE, A-5



Marines of Headquarters Battalion hike along the Nuupia Ponds Trail during the first leg of their hike.

— NEWS BRIEFS —

Child Safety Seat Inspection, Installation

Make sure your child's safety seat is safe or learn to install a new child restraint Saturday in the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot from 9 a.m. to noon.
For more information, contact Base Safety at 257-1830.

Road Closure on Base

Manning Road is closed between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. now through Nov. 21, and Lawrence Road will close Monday to Nov. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Please plan your routes accordingly and allow additional time to get to your destination.
Detour signs will facilitate access to Klipper Villas, SNCO Club and Klipper Golf Course.

IPAC, G1, DEERS, Base Post Office Closure

Due to an official function, IPAC, DEERS, the Base Post Office and G1 will be closed Nov. 30.

Civil War Expert to Hold Discussion

Renowned civil war historian and History Channel featured guest Ed Bears is holding a round table dinner and discussion at the Hale Koa Hotel Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
The topic is the Battle of Franklin, Tenn., "Five Tragic Hours." The event is open to the public and costs \$28, which includes dinner.
For more information or to make reservations, call Damian Paul at 261-8663 or e-mail damian-paul@hawaii.rr.com.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas tree lighting is Dec. 2 at Dewey Square at 5 p.m. The base commander invites the local community to join Marines, Sailors, civilian workers and family members to help celebrate this holiday event.
Seating at Dewey Square is limited, so you might want to bring a lawn chair or similar alternative.

Runway incursions

Runway incursions continue to be a problem aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Violations involving runway incursions will now result in a mandatory magistrate hearing with a maximum punishment of 12 points and up to one-year suspension of driving privileges.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

Hawaii Marine invites its readers to e-mail its editor at hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com with their comments and letters.
All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number.
Hawaii Marine also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Thanksgiving: give thanks safely

Steven Kalnasy

Base Safety Center

It seems like only yesterday that I was lying around the house watching my beloved Detroit Lions take yet another beating in their only televised game of the season, and only my wife's ability to create a masterful holiday meal could take me out my post game depression and launch me into the holiday spirit of Thanksgiving.
Upon us yet again, Thanksgiving is the preamble to the holiday season, and the har-binger to a new year. As we turn our collective attention to friends, family, and the frenzied shopping that leads to Christmas morning excitement, and more college football games than even Chris Berman can take, it's important to take a few moments to consider the hazards that often go along with our holiday plans.
In that spirit, let's focus our attention on cooking birds and lighting your tree. It may not help the Lions win that six-legged turkey, but it will help you avoid turning holiday joy into a tragedy.

Choosing a Turkey

Ensure packaging is intact and free of rips and tears.

Turkey Preparation

Do
Defrost your frozen turkey by refrigeration or in a coldwater bath.
Allow a day of thawing for every 5 lbs. of turkey. If using a coldwater bath, change water every 30 minutes.
Keep utensils, dishes, kitchen equipment and work surfaces clean.
Wash your hands before and after handling turkey.

Don't
Defrost your turkey on the

counter at room temperature.
Refreeze a thawed turkey.
Use cutting boards and knives that have touched raw meat or other foods without washing them first.

Cooking the Turkey – In the Oven

Do
Separate the giblets and the neck from the turkey.
Rinse the turkey and pat it dry.
Use a meat thermometer to monitor temperature. The turkey is done at 180 degrees.
Cook the turkey entirely in one session.

Don't
Cook stuffing inside the turkey.
Partially cook the turkey one day and continue the next.

Rules for Leftover Turkey

Refrigerate leftovers when finished within two hours of serving the meal.
Refrigerate the turkey 35-40 degrees for three to four days.
Freeze the turkey at zero degrees or below for three to four months.
Remove leftover meat from the bone before storing.
When reheating, ensure turkey reaches 160 degrees.

Cooking the Turkey – In a Fryer

Do
Turkey fryers should always be outdoors and a safe distance from buildings and other flammable material.
Ensure fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect eyes from oil splatter.



File photo

Ensure turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water don't mix, and water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.
Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Remember to use your best judgment when attempting to fight a fire. If the fire is manageable, use an all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call 911 for help.
Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking

pots remains dangerously hot hours after use.
Don't
Use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.
Leave fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
Let children or pets near fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot.

Voting Assistance Officers help service members vote

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

The right to vote is one of the freedoms that has been fought for constantly throughout American history, but might also become one of the freedoms a lot of Americans take for granted.
To ensure Marines are educated about the voting process, units throughout the Marines Corps provide them and their families with Voting Assistance Officers who help Marines with all their voting needs.
"Voting Assistance Officers have two main functions," said Capt. Peter Baker, Voting Assistance Officer, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. "The first is to make sure every Marine and spouse who is eligible to vote has the opportunity to vote. The second is to educate people about voting."
Voting Assistance Officers provide Marines and eligible family members with everything they need to vote, from registration forms to absentee ballots. A Federal Postcard Application can register a service member or their spouse from afar to vote in federal, state and local elections. Units' voting assistance officers can not only provide he forms, but can help people fill out the cards and provide them with the correct local address to send the information to.
It's important for service members and their families to exercise their constitution-

al right to vote because it gives them a voice in issues that are important to them, Baker said.
"The thing I tell people is most of us who are Marines joined because we wanted to make a difference in the world," Baker said.



"Going to Iraq is one way to do that. Voting is another. The country was founded on the principals of freedom and the right to choose the things that are important to you. It's a dishonor to those who fought and died for us not to exercise it ... my job is to

remind them to look and see what's going on here."
A lot of service members have never registered to vote and know nothing about the process, Baker said. That's where the Voting Assistance Officers come in. Service members and their families can seek help registering and obtain information on local, state and federal elections.
"The Marine Corps has a lot of young service members, and for some of them, this is the first year they can vote and it's not really something they think of," Baker said. "Getting them into the habit of voting is the most important thing. It's just one more step in turning them into productive citizens."
With help available, anything that has to do with voting, from registering to sending in absentee ballots, is painless, Baker said.
"The main advice I have for people is to vote," he said. "Look at the information you get. It's not that hard and it's not a big ordeal like people think it could be. You send in your FPA and they'll send you all the information. You don't have to vote, but the information will give you the chance to voice your opinion on local issues, as well as state and government ones. It's really easy."
For more information about voting, see your unit's Voting Assistance Officer or visit www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting.

Weekend weather outlook

Today

Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 14 and 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 73

Saturday

Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 73

Sunday

Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 84

Low — 73

Hawaii MARINE

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Knock Knock

Jump gets their kicks during lane training

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Mark Fayloga

Combat Correspondent

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Scaling walls, kicking in doors and putting rounds through automated insurgents, Jump Platoon worked on their teamwork and basic combat operations in urban terrain during an Urban Assault Course lane training exercise Nov. 5 at Range 111 here.

Jump Platoon, a security detachment from Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sent teams of two to four Marines through five training lanes.

Each lane had an aggressive mission, requiring Devil Dogs to assault insurgent strongholds. The training lanes were relatively short, usually taking no longer than five minutes for teams to complete, with the emphasis revolving around refining basic combat techniques.

"This range was a means for us to get back to the basics before moving on to the more complex ranges at Mojave Viper," said Staff Sgt. Solomon Jennings IV, platoon sergeant, Jump, H&S, 2/3. "You need to crawl before you can walk or run right. Out here we're refin-

ing our crawling skills."

Jump Marines come from different shops and occupational specialties. They only come together to form Jump Platoon during deployments, so the training served as an opportunity for them to better get to know one another and build unit cohesion.

"After going through this training I feel I have better communication with my fellow Marines, and I understand what my leaders expect from me," said Pfc. Daniel R. Gallardo, gunner, Jump Platoon.

Gallardo, like the majority of Jump Marines, comes from a non-infantry background and is new to the platoon. Although the training concentrated on the basics, it's a key step for the Marines to prepare as much as possible.

"This training is essential because not even a handful of us are actually combat arms Marines, so the more training we get it definitely improves not only our lethality, but our survivability on the battlefield," said Jennings, a native of Hemet, Calif. "We're in that stage now where the boxer is shadowboxing. He's training before he actually gets in the ring and that's us. This is essential, it's critical, and it means the world to us."

For one Jump Marine, infantry

life is nothing new. He's deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, seeing action in both places, and took the training as an opportunity to get to better know and work with the Marines who are new to Jump, and to combat.

"This training gives me the chance to help the new Marines coming in, and working together here helps us become more of a team because we don't get to work together a lot before coming into Jump," said Cpl. Walter A. Marinero, gunner, Jump Platoon. "We didn't have set fireteams today, we mixed it up out here, and we were able to see how each Marine acts in any given situation. I got to know my Marines better."

Although most of them are coming from administration shops and supply warehouses as opposed to the School of Infantry, Marinero said he has just as much faith in his fellow Jump Marines as he did in his fellow infantrymen.

"A lot of people have the mentality that if you're not an [infantryman] then you can't do certain things, but every Marine is a rifleman, and they can do the same type of work as an [infantryman]," said the Mesa, Ariz. native. "It just takes practice. Which is why we come here."



Corporal Marcus W. Preudhomme, dismount team leader, Jump Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and Pfc. Dustin M. Dean, gunner, Jump, H&S, 2/3, along with a range instructor clear a building.



Private First Class Daniel R. Gallardo, gunner, Jump Platoon, H&S, 2/3, scales down a mock Iraqi courtyard wall.



Corporals Daniel P. Sebber (left) and Walter A. Marinero, vehicle commander and gunner (respectively), Jump Platoon, H&S, 2/3, track down an automated insurgent.



Corporal Barry T. Albious, driver, Jump Platoon, H&S, 2/3, kicks in the door of a suspected insurgent hideout as Cpl. Walter A. Marinero, gunner, Jump Platoon, prepares to clear the building during an Urban Assault Course lane training exercise Nov. 5 at Range 111 here.



Lance Cpl. Jason A. Gilmore, fire team leader, 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, repeats orders from an entrenchment formerly occupied by insurgents just outside the mock village of Fayyad Nov. 7.



Marines with 3rd Platoon, Fox Co., 2/3, press forward toward insurgent strongholds.

Mock battle mirrors Iraq challenges

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Mark Fayloga

Combat Correspondent

On Nov. 7, Marines assigned to 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, participated in a platoon live-fire attack exercise at Range 400A on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. During the exercise the Marines had to regain control of an Iraqi village controlled by a platoon-sized insurgent force holding well-fortified defensive positions. The following is a fictional retelling of ...

The Battle of Fayyad

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Fayyad, an Iraqi village, which was cleared by Coalition Forces years ago and transferred to host nation security forces, then attacked and seized by insurgents weeks ago, is now free again thanks to the valiant efforts of the brave warriors of 3rd Platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and machine gunners from Weapons Company, 2/3.

"Now everything the [citizens of Fayyad] lost to the insurgents, they have back in their power," said Lt. Cedric A. Jefferson, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Fox Co., 2/3. "It shows the locals that we're here to help. It's the ugly face of war, but we want to see their own security forces in charge, and if it takes us to come in and get the foothold for them then we will."

Insurgent forces took control of Forward Operating Base Fayyad, along with host nation security force equipment, defensive fighting positions, and facilities from the host nation security forces, just a few weeks back.

Upon taking control of the small rural village, insurgents heavily fortified their defensive positions. However, even with seized equipment and heavily fortified positions, the platoon-sized insurgent force was no match for the superior firepower and tactics of the Marines, who were able to successfully retake the village after engaging in an assault, which lasted just more than an hour.

"By bringing together our different weapons systems, we were able to do things aggressively and take over their strongholds," Jefferson said. "It was a bit difficult but we were able to do it. One of the hardest things is taking over a fortified position but by using combined arms we were able to be successful."

The Island Warriors began their assault just after sunrise and were able, for the most part, to get a jump on the position thanks to steady mortar support. Unfortunately, the boom of mortar rounds stopped just before the machine gunners from Weapons Company could take their position atop a hill adjacent to the village, preventing them from laying down proper suppressive fire. Without suppressive fire, it was more difficult and deadly for the rest of the squads to continue moving forward.

With bullets whizzing by and



Marines press forward toward insurgent strongholds during their assault at a mock village.

enemy mortars dropping, 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon reset its position and increased their rate of fire, allowing the other squads to get into position.

"I let my Marines know the importance of the mission and didn't let them be discouraged about the enemy being dug in, because we're taking the fight to the enemy," said Lance Cpl. Aaron P. Paxton, fire team leader, 1st Squad, 3rd platoon, Fox Company, 2/3. "I told them, 'We're taking the fight to the enemy, and we're going to be successful,' which we were."

After 1st Squad reset its position,

allowing the machine gunners to lay down suppressive fire, the Fox Company Devil Dogs used combined arms tactics to break apart the enemy strongholds.

Company commander Capt. Philip J. Dykeman felt the assault's success should send a message to insurgents, and believes the Battle of Fayyad should reinforce the locals' faith in American support of the Iraqi people.

"No matter how much time you have to fortify your position and no matter how much manpower you have, if you get in the way of a dem-

ocratic Iraq we'll be coming in, and you're not going to stay long," Dykeman said. "The locals need to know that we're going to support them in their quest not to be harassed by anyone. If we didn't come back here it would breed an ideal in everyone's heads that we're only concerned about certain areas and not about them. Any Marine has a high moral feeling of obligation to any innocent person. We're here for the people. We're here so they are free to support the Iraqi government and aren't forced into insurgent ideals."

RUN, from A-1

Regimental Schools. “It’s an honor to be part of this. I’ve been in combat twice, but these guys did their jobs to the fullest and gave everything.” McDonald, Kareus and more than 100 other Marines ran for the 92 3rd Marine Regiment Marines killed in OIF and OEF. Before runners left the regiment to begin their stick of the run, a biography for the fallen Marine was read, runners offered up personal memories about them, and their dog tag was fixed to the guidon.

The run started off with two Marines from the Wounded Warriors Co. running for 1st Lt. Joshua Booth, Company E, 2/3. It ended when Maj. Matthew Tracy, officer-in-charge, Regimental Schools and former Echo Co., 2/3 commanding officer, ran in the guidon with dog tags for every fallen Marine affixed to the top.

Tracy, who organized the run with McDonald and Kareus, then spoke to the Marines who participated in the run, as well as other Marines from the regiment. He spoke about the impor-

tance of the run and remembering fallen brothers.

“Those 92 Marines were Marines who once walked to McDonalds,” Tracy said. “They’re Marines who ate in the chow hall and slept in your barracks. They were your roommates, your friends, your brothers. I’m impressed by the support you’ve shown for this run. We had wounded warriors running despite injuries. We had Marines who had gotten out come back for this run. We had Marines running with tears in their eyes. I’m glad our fallen warriors can know they have this kind of support.”

HIKE, from A-1

Cpl. Todd Lawhon, ammunition technician. “It ensures Marines are maintaining their physical fitness levels and combat readiness. We need to do these more often, and besides, this was for a good cause.”

At the base chapel, Marines formed an assembly line and began passing down all the food items for collection.

“Marines were motivated and knew what they were doing was for a reason,” Lawhorn said. “I think everyone stayed together during the hump and pushed through any discomfort they had not only

because of embarrassment, but because it’s not like we do these things all them time. Might as well finish it strong.”

Sergeant Maj. Erik Shirreffs, battalion sergeant major, and Lt. Col. William Perez, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, concluded the hike with a few words on safety and the new spouses tuition assistance program, allowing spouses up to \$3,000 a year for three years for education.

The hike brought the Marines together to donate more than two tons of food to people in need, as a battalion, and maintained the unit’s combat readiness.

Remembering those lost



A widow prepares flowers in remembrance of her loved one during Veterans Day, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Family, friends and people paying their respects visited the cemetary at Punchbowl during Veterans Day.

Pic. Achilles Tsantarliotis

AROUND THE CORPS

RCT-2 takes to skies to cover al Anbar

Story and Photo by
Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser

2nd Marine Division

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — In a 30,000-square-mile patch of desert, roughly the size of South Carolina, it isn't easy to have eyes and ears everywhere.

Regimental Combat Team 2, the unit in control of the northwestern piece of Iraq's Anbar province, has taken an elevated approach to the problem, and regularly fields an Aero Scout group to the far corners, cliffs and caves of the western Euphrates River Valley.

Aero Scout consists of Marines from occupations ranging from infantry to administration. The team uses helicopters to quickly search areas of interest and scout out possible targets.

"We fly around to areas that may be difficult for ground units to get to, and scout out any nefarious activity," explained Cpl. Kyle D. Christian, the team's radio operator. "We make the enemy feel like there's nowhere to hide, and we play a large role in reconnaissance also."

The group flies to large areas of open desert to get a closer look at places they suspect illegal activity is taking place.

"We are a reconnaissance asset," said Maj. Robert B. Brodie, Aero Scout mission commander. "Recon-slash-interdiction and disruption, that's what we do. It comes

down to economy of force. We enable the regimental commander to have a force that can do recon and show a presence across his entire area of operation."

According to the Aero Scouts, in addition to their scouting mission, they also help nomadic civilians.

"We do cache searches, vehicle searches and sweeps, but we also provide a humanitarian aspect to our mission," said Sgt. Jason R. Carmody, platoon sergeant. "We hand out speedballs, backpacks filled with water, chow, toothpaste and other hygiene gear, and handbills with phone numbers they can call and photos of the most dangerous insurgents in their area."

Brodie, a Beaufort, S.C., native, explained the nomadic Bedouins they come into contact with do not have the luxuries or communication assets local villagers may have.

"They don't get television or radio, so we help them out by providing them with information about what is going on in their country and who the bad guys are. We better enable the overall mission by opening more lines of communication and information sharing," Brodie said.

Aero Scout Marines said they enjoy what they do, and love getting out and making a difference.

"I get to go out and at the end of the day feel like I did something that mattered. It doesn't make a difference if we rolled up a bad guy, found any



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason S. Gamble (left), a corpsman with Regimental Combat Team 2's Aero Scout team, and Cpl. Kyle D. Christian, team radio operator, stand near the team's helicopter while scouts search a group of Bedouin tents.

weapons, or just collected some good intel, in the end it all fits together to help eliminate the threat to the Iraqi people," said Christian, a Hallettsville, Texas, native. "There are no more stupid insurgents; they died a long time ago, so we are trying to fight very smart individuals who know what they are doing, and every piece helps

fit the puzzle together so we can catch him."

The group usually takes a fire team of Iraqi Soldiers with them on helicopters to help communicate and show civilians how far the Iraqi Security Forces have come in their training and dedication.

"This lets the civilians know we are working together to take the weight of safety

and security off their shoulders, so they don't have to worry about getting attacked, the good guys are watching," Christian said.

"Simply put," explained Brodie, "We are positively affecting the people of our AO by providing a secure environment in which we can cultivate nationalism."

The Aero Scout team has

worked together for about four months, and completed nearly 20 successful missions in support of RCT-2.

"This is a regular group of guys, not specially trained, but because of their eagerness and will to make a difference, they were able to come together and make a successful unit and successful missions," Brodie said.



Wives at the Deployed Spouses Ball of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, laughed and danced together Saturday night.

SPOUSES, from A-1

birthday that Walls had spent away from her husband.

Following the birthday message, a video of 3/3 Marines thanking their wives for their support played.

“We love you and miss you!” “Happy Thanksgiving!” “Happy Birthday!” “Thanks for your support, baby!”

These were common phrases Marines shouted to the camera as it was passed from Marine to Marine. Wives cried and laughed together, pointing out their husbands on the screen.

“The video messages were my favorite part of the night,” said Jamie Monroe. “It was so nice to see my husband because I love and miss him so much! I’m so proud of him.”

Once the video ended, the cake ceremony commenced. The longest and shortest wed wives tasted the first bites of birthday cake.

Stroud explained that this cake cutting signified the passing on of knowledge from the wise to the young.

Kim Walls, married 20 years, was the longest married woman and Sara Nelson, married exactly 4 months, was the newest married. The cake cutters won gift certificates to a salon and Starbucks.

“It was really great to be here since he couldn’t be,” Nelson said. “It’s the first time I’ve hung out with the other wives, but now I’m sure we will get together more often because we’re having so much fun.”

As the music began, the ladies kicked their shoes off next to the dance floor and danced together to the electric slide.

“I came to support the newer wives and see my husband on the video,” smiled Kimberly Hulsey. “It’s important to inspire them to hang in there and guide them. I want them to know that although its tough, they can do it.”

PAGEANT, from A-1

“We’re presenting this pageant so we can honor the ones who came before us,” said Nicholson. “It’s about never forgetting where you came from.”

Service members, family members, veterans and eager onlookers filled the stands. A sense of pride filled the air as the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific band sounded the call to attention.

While the color guard gallantly marched out for the posting of the colors and set the pageant into motion, the participants waited behind the large set that represented Tun Tavern, eager to share their little bit of history of the Marine Corps.

As each Marine stepped through the narrow doors of the tavern, they wore their uniforms and bore the arms from the history of the Corps.

Starting with the Revolutionary War came muskets. Stepping through the years the actors portrayed

how the weapons and the uniforms had advanced, but since the beginning the Marines didn’t change.

In a stunning display of enthusiasm, Cpl. Mark Raymond, traffic management specialist, Headquarters Battalion, sped through the doors wielding a Tommy-gun and a bowie knife, charging the field as if he were really in the Banana Wars that ended in 1934.

While World War II came about followed by the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, and all the way to present day, veterans in the audience had the opportunity to look back on their own contribution to history.

As the ceremony continued, there was a marvelous re-enactment of the flag raising at Iwo Jima, followed by a short speech by Col. Mark Dungan, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and onto the cake cutting ceremony.

The pieces were presented to Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert Gomez, the oldest

Marine present and Pfc. Kenny Pondrom, the youngest Marine present, in traditional Marine Corps manner.

Once the cake exited the field, Dungan read Lejeune’s birthday message followed by the recognition of several war veterans.

Three individuals who served in the Marine Corps during three wars, Lieutenant Col. Tom Kalus, Sergeant Maj. Bob Porter and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roy Robinson, stood proudly in the stands with fellow veterans to celebrate.

At the close of the ceremony, the colors were retired and the audience got to mingle with each other and speak with the actors about their historical roles.

“I think all the veterans really appreciated it,” Dungan said. “It’s a great time to be in the United States Marine Corps.”

After 232 years, the Marine Corps is still landing and the situation will always be well in hand.